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Chairman: Mr. Kuchinsky ..... (Ukraine)

Contents

Agenda item 98: Advancement of women (*continued*)

Agenda item 105: Human rights questions (*continued*)

(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms (*continued*)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Agenda item 98: Advancement of women (*continued*)

Draft resolution on trafficking in women and girls (A/C.3/59/L.27/Rev.1)

1. **The Chairman** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.27/Rev.1, which contained no programme budget implications. In addition to those listed in the document, the following delegations had become sponsors: Albania, Andorra, Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, the Czech Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Kyrgyzstan, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malaysia, Monaco, Mongolia, Namibia, Nigeria, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Serbia and Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Venezuela and Viet Nam.

2. **Mr. Khane** (Secretary of the Committee) read out the following additional revisions to draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.27/Rev.1: in paragraph 4, the words "in women and girls" should be deleted after "to eliminate trafficking"; in paragraph 7, the words "persons, and to ensure that such agreements and initiatives pay particular attention to the problem of trafficking in" should be added between "trafficking in" and "women and girls"; in paragraph 8, the words "in particular girls" should be deleted; in paragraph 11, the words "in persons" should be added after "the issue of trafficking", the words "for trafficked women and children" should be deleted, and the words ", recognizing that the majority of trafficked victims are women and girls" should be added after "sex tourists"; and in paragraph 17, the words ", including witness protection programmes, to enable women and children, particularly girls, who are victims of trafficking" should be replaced by "to ensure that criminal justice procedures and witness protection programmes are sensitive to the particular situation of trafficked women and girls and that they are enabled".

3. **Ms. Banzon** (Philippines) also read out a number of additional revisions: in footnote 14, the words "the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking," should be added after "and Related Transnational Crime,"; in paragraph 22, the words "persons, especially" should be added between "to combat trafficking in" and "women and girls"; in paragraph 23, the words "who handle cases of trafficked women and girls" should be deleted and the words "women and girls" should be added before "victims"; and in paragraph 26, the word "particular" should be added before "problem". Lastly, the following delegations had become sponsors of the draft resolution: Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei Darussalam, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malta, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden and the United Kingdom.

4. **Mr. Faber** (Netherlands), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the Union was firmly committed to combating the problem of trafficking in persons, especially women and children. The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, both of which had entered into force in 2003, were essential tools in combating the problem. In that regard, the European Union welcomed the establishment by the Commission on Human Rights, in 2004, of the mandate of a Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children.

5. Over the past few weeks, the European Union had been working to bring the draft resolution into line with those developments. The European Union recognized that most victims of trafficking were women and girls and for that reason stressed the need to apply a gender perspective to all policies and programmes to prevent and combat trafficking. However, it would have preferred it if the draft resolution had addressed — and it indeed hoped that future resolutions would address — the problem of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, in line with the mandate of the newly established Special Rapporteur. The European Union did not consider that such terminology would unduly shift its focus.

6. **Ms. Merchant** (Norway) said that, as a sponsor of the draft resolution, her delegation endorsed the

statement made by the representative of the Netherlands on behalf of the European Union.

7. **The Chairman** said that he took it that the Committee wished to adopt draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.27/Rev.1, as orally revised, without a vote.

8. *It was so decided.*

9. **Ms. Escobar** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that, while trafficking was a human rights issue, most victims of trafficking were women and girls of low economic status. Her delegation also therefore stressed the need for a gender perspective in order to eradicate the problem. The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children was an important step forward in consolidating the constitutional guarantees granted to all people. The adoption of the draft resolution once again demonstrated her Government's commitment to defending, in particular, the rights of women and girls, the group most vulnerable to trafficking in persons.

10. **The Chairman** suggested that the Committee should take note, in accordance with General Assembly decision 55/488, of the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on the work of its thirtieth session (A/59/38 (Part I)).

11. *It was so decided.*

12. **The Chairman** said that the Committee had thus concluded its consideration of agenda item 98.

Agenda item 105: Human rights questions (*continued*)

(b) Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms (*continued*)

Draft resolution on globalization and its impact on the full enjoyment of all human rights (A/C.3/59/L.35)

13. **Mr. Elbadri** (Egypt) said that his delegation was willing to consult with the various groups on the text before the Committee. It had received proposals from the European Union on 17 November and had circulated those proposals to the main sponsors. However, due to time constraints, it had not been possible to hold consultations. His delegation would consult with the European Union and other interested parties in order to reach a common position.

14. **The Chairman** announced that Cameroon, Grenada, Guyana, Kenya, Mauritania, Myanmar, the Philippines, Qatar, Somalia, Suriname, Tunisia and Viet Nam had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution, and said that a recorded vote had been requested.

15. **Ms. Escobar** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela), speaking in explanation of vote before the voting, said that her delegation would vote in favour of the draft resolution. Globalization inevitably led to the impoverishment and exclusion of peoples, thus directly affecting their human, social and economic rights and hampering sustainable development, which was a major priority for her country.

16. *At the request of the representative of Canada, a recorded vote was taken.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Brazil, Chile, Singapore.

17. *Draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.35 was adopted by 118 votes to 50, with 3 abstentions.*

18. **Ms. Bakker** (Netherlands), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that while the Union acknowledged that globalization could have implications — both positive and negative — for the full enjoyment of human rights, it was not convinced that globalization had an impact on all human rights as suggested by the draft resolution. The European Union also regretted that the resolution focused on the negative impacts without fully acknowledging that the globalization process constituted a powerful and dynamic force that should be used for the benefit of all countries.

19. Although the European Union recognized that the benefits of globalization were not yet equally shared, it objected to the direct link made between globalization and the worsening of poverty. Globalization offered a great opportunity to stimulate growth and prosperity around the world and could have a positive influence on the protection and promotion of human rights. The European Union therefore considered the draft resolution unbalanced and one-sided, and had voted against it.

Draft resolution on human rights and unilateral coercive measures (A/C.3/59/L.40)

20. **The Chairman** announced that China had joined the sponsors of the draft resolution.

21. **Ms. Astanah Banu** (Malaysia), speaking on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and China, expressed grave concern that unilateral actions had brought negative consequences for developing countries and created additional obstacles to the full enjoyment of all human rights by the peoples of the affected States. They created obstacles to trade relations among States, impeded social and economic development and hindered the well-being of peoples, especially women, children and the elderly. The draft resolution urged States to refrain from unilaterally imposing coercive measures against other States with the aim of enforcing compliance, particularly where such measures were inconsistent with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and international law. Lastly, a small revision had been made to the text of the draft resolution: the words "and China" had been added to the footnote indicated by the asterisk.

22. *At the request of the representative of Canada, a recorded vote was taken on the draft resolution, as orally revised.*

In favour:

Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo,

Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

None.

23. *Draft resolution A/C.3/59/L.40, as orally revised, was adopted by 115 votes to 51.*

24. **Ms. García** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela), referring to paragraph 4 of the draft resolution, said that her country wished to state that it had recently been the victim of direct coercive and unilateral action by the United States Administration, which had expressed its opposition to the granting of loans to Venezuela in the international bodies to which it belonged.

25. **Ms. Tchitanava** (Georgia) said that her delegation had not been present during the voting on draft resolutions A/C.3/59/L.35 and A/C.3/59/L.40, and wished the Committee to note that it would have voted against both resolutions.

Draft resolution on the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities (A/C.3/59/L.58)

26. **Ms. Olivera** (Mexico), introducing the draft resolution, said that Argentina, Panama, Sierra Leone, Timor-Leste and Tunisia had joined the sponsors. In 2001, the General Assembly had established the Ad Hoc Committee with a view to considering proposals for an international convention on persons with disabilities. Since that time, the international community had shown the political will to advance in negotiations on the draft convention. Her delegation welcomed the progress made in those negotiations. The Ad Hoc Committee also had a basic text for negotiations, and there was growing interest on the part of the international community in the rights of persons with disabilities. Her delegation believed that the draft convention could be negotiated in a reasonable time period. It should be remembered that the ultimate goal was to ensure that the rights of persons with disabilities were respected all over the world, and the convention would play a key role in that effort. The negotiation process would require broad international support, and her delegation continued to consult with all delegations in an effort to reach agreement on a draft resolution that could be adopted by consensus.

27. **The Chairman** announced that Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Gambia, Grenada, Guinea, Honduras, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mali, Nicaragua, the Republic of Moldova, the Republic of Korea, Senegal, South Africa, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay had also become sponsors of the draft resolution.

The meeting rose at 11.45 a.m.